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## Public Notification

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To: Interested Parties  
From: SCS Global Services  
Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
Re: Notification of Planned FSC Certification Evaluation of Forestry Tasmania

**Summary: As part of an upcoming Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) certification evaluation, SCS Global Services is seeking stakeholder input regarding the forest management program and practices of Forestry Tasmania. Please comment via email or contact our offices (contact information below).**

In pursuit of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) endorsed forest management certification, Forestry Tasmania will be undergoing an audit in early December 2014. The audit will be conducted by SCS Global Services, a FSC-accredited certification body. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organisation devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC sets standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way.

Forestry Tasmania (FT) is a State-Government Business Enterprise with the fundamental statutory responsibility to manage and control the Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPZ) land of Tasmania's public forests, and to harvest and sell high quality sawlogs and other forest products. This involves managing approximately 50,000 ha of plantation and approximately 700,000 ha of native forest. The scope of FT's operations include harvesting and forest regeneration, forest maintenance activities, road construction, and maintenance and fire management.

### Scope and Certification Evaluation Process

SCS Global Services (SCS), a FSC-accredited certification body based in California and with an office near Melbourne, Australia, will conduct the FSC evaluation. Forestry Tasmania is seeking FSC forest management (FM) certification for approximately 720,000 ha of native forest and plantations. FT is also seeking FSC Controlled Wood (CW) certification for approximately 30,000 ha of plantation that were established on land converted from natural forest after November 1994 that, as a consequence, do not qualify for FSC FM certification.

Forestry Tasmania's operations will be evaluated against the FSC/SCS Interim Standard for Natural Forest & Plantation Forest Management in Australia, Version 2.0, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and the FSC Controlled Wood Standard, FSC-STD-30-010. The standards are available at <http://www.scsglobalservices.com/certification-standards-and-program-documents>.

The evaluation process includes the following components:

- Public notification: distribution of the standard and solicitation of comments on the certification applicant; audit planning and document review;
- Field assessment: a representative sample of field sites and operations within the defined forest area are inspected by a team of auditors;
- Stakeholder consultation: carried out prior to and during the field assessment;
- Synthesis of findings: conformity to the standard is ascertained and the draft certification decision is formulated;
- Reporting: a draft report describing the evaluation process, findings, and certification decision is produced;
- Peer review: the draft evaluation report is peer reviewed by at least two (2) independent natural resource professionals;
- Finalisation of the report and conveyance to the SCS Certification Committee for the final certification decision;
- Certification decision: the final report and certification decision is conveyed to the applicant; a public summary of the certification report is released if certification is awarded.

### **Call for Public Participation**

SCS welcomes comments on the forest management of Forestry Tasmania or other topics pertinent to their seeking FSC certification, such as whether Forestry Tasmania complies with the legal, social, technical, and environmental requirements of the standard or identification of high conservation value forests<sup>1</sup> within the lands managed by Forestry Tasmania. Comments can be submitted via email ([FSCConsultation@scsglobalservices.com](mailto:FSCConsultation@scsglobalservices.com)), standard mail, or facsimile. All comments and sources will be kept in strict confidence at the request of the commenter.

### **Date of Audit**

The field evaluation is scheduled for December 4-9, 2014. A member of the SCS audit team will endeavor to meet with interested parties during the evaluation, if possible, but it is preferred that comments are submitted before the field evaluation commences.

### **Dispute Resolution Procedure**

As provided by the FSC Interim Dispute Resolution Protocol and the SCS Forest Conservation Program Quality Manual, dispute resolution procedures are in place and available to interested parties at <http://www.scsglobalservices.com/your-feedback>.

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<sup>1</sup> See Principle 9 of the FSC Principles and Criteria.

### Additional Information

More information about FSC and SCS can be obtained from [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) and [www.SCSglobalServices.com](http://www.SCSglobalServices.com). Information about Forestry Tasmania can be found at <http://www.forestrytas.com.au/>.

### Please Contact Us

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